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Cooperation with China in higher education and research

On January 19, [NOS published an article](#) about the Cross Cultural Human Rights Centre (CCHRC), affiliated to the Vrije Universiteit (VU), revealing that the center receives its entire budget from the Chinese Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing. The article also refers to statements on the CCHRC website that contradict the findings of human rights

"even the appearance of dependence is unacceptable".

The matter sparked a renewed debate on China's influence on Dutch higher education and research. The LeidenAsiaCentre already published [various reports](#) on this topic in previous years. [In October 2020](#), Ingrid d'Hooghe and Jonas Lammertink developed various recommendations for ensuring sustainable cooperation with China that is on the one hand fruitful for both sides, and on the other hand guarantees that academic values, human rights, and the safety of people around the world are not undermined. [Earlier that year](#), d'Hooghe and Brigitte Dekker published a Clingendael report on Chinese political influence in the Dutch higher education system.

Now that the topic of academic collaboration with China is again at the centre of attention, various LAC researchers have written about or commented on the recent developments:

- [Financieele Dagblad \(Dutch\)](#), January 26
- [University World News](#), January 26
- [Financieele Dagblad \(Dutch\)](#), February 2

Would you be interested in additional information on the topic, we would suggest accessing the following documents:

- ["The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee: A new tool in China's anti-human rights strategy"](#)
- [European Commission toolkit to help mitigate foreign interference in research and innovation](#)
- [Rijksbreed loket kennisveiligheid \(Dutch\)](#)

LAC Shorts: "China-MENA relations in the Renewable Energy Sector"

LAC shorts are articles written by or interviews conducted with LeidenAsiaCentre researchers on important developments in Asia.

A few weeks ago, [Dr. Mohammadbagher Forough](#) wrote a [LAC report](#) on China - Middle East and North Africa (MENA) relations in the renewable energy sector. In the report, Forough focuses on specific cases of Chinese cooperation with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iran, Turkey, and countries in North Africa (particularly Egypt and Morocco), in order to unpack China's

In this new LAC shorts video interview, Forough highlights the relevance of the report and lists its main takeaways:



[Click here to watch the interview](#)

Rewatch: "The BRI and (post-)Covid connectivity competition"

On January 11, the [Belt and Road Research Platform](#) organised a Zoom webinar on the future of the Belt and Road Initiative in relation to two important developments. You can now watch the recording of the webinar.



In the webinar, our speakers discussed the future of the Belt and Road Initiative in relation to two important developments.

diplomatic and economic interactions with the rest of the world and what does this mean for BRI project around the globe?

Secondly, in June US President Biden announced his BRI-alternative 'Build Back Better World', while the European Commission President von der Leyen has announced the 'EU Global Gateway' – Europe's new connectivity plan. How do the US and EU envision competing with the BRI? And what are the consequences for China's grand initiative?

Speakers

- Ed Kronenburg (Former Dutch ambassador to China);
- Cheng-Chwee Kuik (Head of the Centre for Asian Studies, National University of Malaysia);
- Yuan Mengqi (Tsinghua University Institute for International and Area Studies)

[Click here to watch the recording](#)

Rewatch: "China and Green Energy"

On January 28, the LeidenAsiaCentre organised a webinar on Green Energy and China. You can now watch the recording of the webinar.



In 2020, President Xi Jinping announced that China aims to hit the peak of its CO2 emissions before 2030, committing to net-zero emissions before 2060. In the coming decade carbon emissions will therefore continue to rise. At the same time, the country invests in renewable green energy, has committed itself to support no more new coal-fired power projects abroad, and tries to increase the environmental sustainability of the BRI with the Belt and Road Initiative

In this Zoom webinar, our speakers discussed different aspects of China and the green energy sector.

Speakers:

- [Dr. Mohamedbagher Forough](#)
- Dr. Susann Handke
- David Harmon, EU Director for Cybersecurity and Public Affairs

[Click here to watch the recording](#)

New Podcast Episodes

[#4 China and the Industrial Revolution 4.0](#)

This month's guest on The China Smart State Podcast is Tai Wei Lim, associate professor at Soka University in Japan, as well as adjunct research fellow at the National University of Singapore East Asian Institute. He is a historian and area-studies specialist whose research focuses on contemporary China and Japan. He also recently published a book called 'Industrial Revolution 4.0, Tech Giants and Digitized Societies'. In this episode, hosts Rogier Creemers and Linda van der Horst talk with him about China's relations with its region through the lens of the Belt and Road Initiative and the fourth wave of industrialization.



[Click here to listen to the China Smart State podcast!](#)

Podcasts



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